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**Franklin's  
Opinion.**

Franklin's saying that "there never was a good war or a bad peace" is well known.

Here is his opinion of war, more fully developed in a letter to his sister, written Sept. 20, 1787, just after the close of the Constitutional Convention:

"I agree with you perfectly in your disapprobation of war. Abstracted from the inhumanity of it, I think it wrong in point of human providence. For whatever advantages one nation would obtain from another, whether it be part of their territory, the liberty of commerce with them, free passage on their rivers, etc., etc., it would be much cheaper to purchase such advantages with ready money than to pay the expense of acquiring it by war. An army is a devouring monster, and when you have raised it you have, in order to subside it, not only the fair charges of pay, clothing, provision, arms and ammunition, with numberless other contingent and just charges, to answer and satisfy, but you have all the additional knavish charges of the numerous tribe of contractors to defray, with those of every other dealer who furnishes the articles wanting for your army, and takes advantage of that want to demand exorbitant prices. It seems to me that if statesmen had a little more arithmetic, or were more accustomed to calculation, wars would be much less frequent. I am confident that Canada might have been purchased from France for a tenth part of the money England spent in the conquest of it. And if, instead of fighting with us for the power of taxing us, she had kept us in a good humor by allowing us to dispose of our own money, and now and then giving us a little of hers by way of donation to colleges or hospitals, or for cutting canals or fortifying ports, she might easily have drawn from us much more by our occasional voluntary grants and contributions than ever she could by taxes. Sensible people will give a bucket or two of water to a dry pump that they may afterwards get from it all they have occasion for. Her Ministry were deficient in that little point of common sense; and so they spent one hundred millions of her money, and after all lost what they contended for."

**Under Cover  
of the Bible.**

Many people, especially honest and devout scholars, are getting their eyes open to the enormous iniquities and injustices that have been done, and are still done, through false, mechanical and irrationally literalistic interpretations of the Bible. In the *Bibliotheca Sacra* for April Prof. Thomas K. Davis, D. D., of the Oberlin College Theological School, in an article on "The Interpretation of Scripture," says:

"It is appalling to think of the abuses and evils afflicting society which have been defended and perpetuated by appeals to the letter of the Bible,—not only those already mentioned, but others, such as race-prejudice, caste, governmental oppression, war—irrational, inhuman, horrid war, militarism in time of peace, dueling, polygamy,—so that it has taken ages for the spirit of Christ working in the hearts of men to rid Christendom, even partially, of some of these monstrous abuses, while

others of them are in full blast to-day, among Christians, darkening the earth and destroying the people."

The trouble is that men have made the New Testament (the final and only standard of doctrine for Christian men) after the likeness of their own thoughts, instead of searching in it for the actual mind and thought of Jesus Christ. In the light of what he has there taught, war, to say nothing of the other kindred evils, cannot live an hour.

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In an admirable address on the "Patriot's Duty to His Country," in Faneuil Hall, Boston, on Patriots' Day, Hon. Samuel W. McCall, member of Congress from Massachusetts, said a number of things that ought to be heard through the nation from side to side. Here are a few of them: "A swaggering, bullying nation is no better than a swaggering, bullying man, and you will not love, and you ought not to love, the one any more than the other." "When you ask me to tell you what I think is the sum of the patriot's duty to the state, I answer that it is to do his utmost to make it as noble as it is possible for a nation to be." "Oftentimes it calls for higher courage and heroism to stand upon the firing line of good citizenship and to discharge the duties that come to you in everyday life. In the glare of the footlights and to the sound of slow music almost any man can be a hero." "False patriotism has fought many an unjust war, and millions of misled men have been sacrificed upon its altars by unhallowed ambition." "The military microbe is almost omnipresent, and it is easy to set it buzzing. The more unjust the war the more sounding and virtuous is the pretext given for it." "One humble American mechanic, working out some great invention in the obscurity of his shop, has done more to lift up mankind than the whole bloody crew of the conquerors and all the wars of conquest that stain history."

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## Brevities.

. . . Among the important international gatherings of the past month have been the medical congress at Madrid, the history congress at Rome, the anti-alcohol congress at Berlin and the congress of the Latin people at Rome, representing France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Roumania and all the countries of Central and South America.

. . . The British have suffered another severe disaster in Somaliland, a force of two hundred and twenty men under command of Colonel Plunkett having been nearly annihilated on the 18th of April by the Mullah's warriors. The danger of pushing the campaign further at the present time is considered so great that the British government is reported to be contemplating the advisability of abandoning it. This last disaster is only another illustration of the fact that if one goes into the devil's business, or the promotion of civilization in the devil's

way, he must expect to take the devil's pay. The sequel will of course be, in time, more "punitive" expeditions, thousands more of the natives killed, and other British forces surprised and "cut up." It is all a horrible business for Christian England to be engaged in, when she might have civilized Africa by the method of Livingston.

. . . France and Guatemala have agreed to refer to the Hague Court a dispute which has been for some time pending.

. . . *Freds-Tidende*, the organ of the Norwegian Peace Society, now entering its third year, opened its February number this year with a page quotation from the ADVOCATE OF PEACE.

. . . Rev. Josiah Strong, D. D., in an article on "Organized Industry and Peace," says that Great Britain, France, Germany and Belgium, our principal industrial rivals, "are from seven to fifteen times as much handicapped by a standing army as are the people of the United States." How will it be in the matter of the navy in fifteen years?

. . . Kaiser William's visit to Denmark is considered to have been made with the view of trying to allay the enmity of the Danes, which has continued unabated since the Schleswig-Holstein war. The German press does not think that he accomplished much.

. . . The Boer war has added eight hundred millions of dollars to the debt of Great Britain. The total debt of the government is now, in round numbers, four billions of dollars, as against three billion two hundred million when the war broke out.

. . . Mr. William Randal Cremer, M. P., in the *Arbitrator* for April, says that "the little army of peace in the House of Commons has been increased and strengthened by the extraordinary victory of Will Crooks at Woolich." Mr. Crooks is a member of our League (the International Arbitration League).

. . . It has been authoritatively announced that the total cost of the Pious Fund Arbitration by the Hague Court was only \$26,000 instead of \$400,000, as had been stated by certain journals.

. . . The Conference of the Interparliamentary Peace Union this year is to be held at Vienna, Austria, the 7th, 8th and 9th of September. It is understood that the subject of disarmament will be one of the questions discussed at the meeting.

. . . Count Reventlow, in the Berlin *Tageblatt*, in replying to Admiral Dewey's estimate of the German navy, says that among the reasons for the inefficiency of the American navy is the fact that the sailors desert "in droves." The normal rate per year of desertions from the United States navy is about twelve per cent.

. . . Emerson's definition of patriotism, or statement of its function, would be hard to improve: "We hesitate to employ a word so much abused as patriotism, whose true sense is almost the reverse of its popular sense. We have no sympathy with that boyish egotism, hoarse with cheering for one side, for one state, for one town. The right patriotism consists in the delight which springs from contributing our peculiar and legitimate advantages to the benefit of humanity."

. . . No American Minister abroad could do a higher service or win a higher honor than that of preventing a war between two countries, as Mr. Leslie Coombs has done in the case of Guatemala and Salvador. The President of Guatemala, Manuel Estrada, in a letter to Mr. Coombs, transmitted to Secretary Hay, writes: "There is no doubt whatever that the good offices exercised by you had a great influence toward restoring peace between us, and I have the satisfaction of tendering to you, in the name of Guatemala, my most heartfelt thanks for your work."

. . . The South American Peace Association now has Central Committees in five republics, namely, at Santiago, Chile; Buenos Ayres, Argentina; Montevideo, Uruguay; La Paz, Bolivia; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

. . . On Friday afternoon, April 17, at the seventh annual meeting of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, the subject of "International Arbitration on the Western Continent" was discussed by Prof. John Bassett Moore, of Columbia University; W. W. Rockhill, Director of the Bureau of American Republics, and Hon. William I. Buchanan, Ex-Minister to the Argentine Republic.

. . . Baron Gevers, Netherlands Minister at Washington, has addressed to Andrew Carnegie a letter of thanks for his gift to the international court of arbitration, in which he says: "The Netherlands government and the people of Holland, who consider themselves, as it were, the custodians of that great institution of peace which the nations jointly intrusted to their care, are deeply impressed by the high humanitarian sentiments which led you to connect your name in a lasting way with one of the noblest efforts man has ever made—the effort to substitute justice and goodwill among men for the horrors of war."

. . . In an address at Hamilton, Canada, on the 23d of April, Sir William Mulock, Postmaster General of the Dominion, said: "In laying the foundation of Canada's future, it might be the part of wisdom for us to seek to avoid, at least, one of the great errors that have marked the history of older countries. I refer to the fatal mistake of militarism. The arbitrament of the sword is incident to a low state of civilization, and has survived its time. Shall we, a young nation, standing on the vantage ground of a higher civilization and a wider experience, commit in this age the fatal error of incorporating militarism with our efforts toward national development?"

. . . In an address before the Cook County (Ill.) Teachers' Association recently, Jane Addams said she was jealous of that nature teaching which aroused sympathy for the bird and admiration for the flower (which is well), but allowed the same children to call the Italians "Dagos" and to treat the foreign born with contempt. So is every other healthy mind.

. . . Among the pithy truths in the April number of the *Philistine* is this: "To subjugate another is to subjugate yourself; the way to gain freedom is to give it." And this: "'In time of peace prepare for war,' is the advice of a fool. So long as we prepare for war we shall have war. We have anything we prepare for."

. . . General Chaffee's declaration that China does not want Christian missionaries in her borders ought to have been accompanied by the further declaration that no self-respecting country would want within it missionaries from countries that had made a business of exploiting it as General Chaffee is now in favor of exploiting the Philippine islands.

. . . Speaking before the "Mothers' and Fathers' Club" of Boston on April 27th, Mary A. Livermore said that "the advance of a nation comes through its homes, not through its battleships, its great trusts or its corporations."

. . . Candid, friendly conferences, during the past month, between the employers and the employees of two great railroads, the Wabash in the West and the New York, New Haven and Hartford in the East, have prevented what probably would have been two big and disastrous strikes.

. . . Rev. Reuben Thomas, D. D., of the Harvard Congregational Church, Brookline, Mass., said on "Patriots' Day": "The most genuine patriots in any country are those who will submit to obloquy and persecution rather than tell lies about their country for the sake of peace."

. . . Rev. Franklin Hamilton, pastor of the First M. E. Church, Boston, said on "Patriots' Day": "There is a patriotism which finds expression in strife, and struggle, and also a larger patriotism which finds expression in brotherly kindness and fraternal love. From the teaching of Jesus we learn that one kind will be swallowed up in the other."

. . . The *New Age* thinks that what President Roosevelt said in Chicago about our wanting a powerful and efficient navy as a guarantee of peace would better have been left unsaid. "Do we not rather want a powerful public opinion in favor of peace and goodwill?" it asks. It ought not to be necessary in our day to ask such a question as that.

. . . Secretary Root has at last, under the great pressure brought upon him, felt compelled to make public the parts of the report of General Miles, on conditions in the Philippines, which relate to the cruelties practiced upon Filipinos by United States officers and men. Not much that is new is revealed, but his statements corroborate the many reports that have otherwise reached us, and tend to deepen and fix the sense of shame and horror which all true Americans feel over these infamies, which there is not the least doubt now that the War Department has deliberately attempted to conceal, or to minimize and in a measure to justify.

. . . Poor Red Cross Society! A new Cross society of some sort will soon be needed to pour "oil and wine" into the bruises of the Red one, and to patch up its broken noses and limbs.

. . . "Speak softly and carry a big stick," a sentence uttered by the President in one of his recent Western speeches as giving the keynote of the policy which the United States should pursue in relation to foreign nations, is an utterance which it is very difficult to construe into anything good. It ought never to be heard again on American soil, unless uttered to condemn it.

. . . Queen Wilhelmina has appointed former Governor Barge of Curacao and Dr. Filz, former president of the high court of the Dutch Indies, as commissioners to adjust the French and Belgian claims against Venezuela.

. . . Rev. George Dana Boardman, D. D., of Philadelphia, whose death is announced from Atlantic City, N. J., just as we go to press, was one of the best men that the American pulpit has known. Able, scholarly, broadminded and generous, gentle and unassuming, but loyal and fearless, he contributed, by his life, his ministry and his books, more than most preachers do to a just and full interpretation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He was a man of the strongest and most genuine peace principles, believing that war in our day is always wrong, and he took advantage of every suitable opportunity to promote goodwill and brotherhood, which lay very near his heart. He was for many years a vice-president of the American Peace Society, and we felt greatly honored to have him as a friend and coworker.

### Where Will the War be Next?

BY EDWIN L. SABIN.

'Tis peace, they say, o'er the Afric plains;

'Tis peace on the Carib coast;

Peace in the Orient islands reigns;

Quiet each ardent host:

But armies and fleets await employ —

With rumors the air is vexed;

Aye, mother, cling to your only boy!

Where will the war be next?

Peace — and the German eagle peers

And opens his greedy maw!

Peace — and the bear of the bleak frontiers

Stretches with greedy paw!

Peace — but the ships of steel increase

And statesmen watch, perplexed!

What is the thing we folk term "peace"?

Where will the war be next?

Plan, you wise, for a worldwide court,

Where nations shall plead their right —

And this the pitiful, sole resort

When honor or lust says "Fight"?

When "On!" is pealed from the trumpet's throat,

And "Glory" the rifle's text,

And the flags high float to the drum's stern note? —

Where will the war be next?

— From *Leslie's Weekly*.

### An Effective Diplomatic Service as an Agency for the Promotion of International Peace.

BY GEORGE F. SEWARD, EX-MINISTER TO CHINA.

It must be evident to the most careless observer that to-day in our land, as well as in other lands, sentiment adverse to war, and in particular to unnecessary war, is strong. The tendency is to make national growth depend upon progressive, peaceful development. Wars